

Remarks

In the present response, claims 1-16, 18-19, 21-26, and 28-34 are presented for examination. Applicants make a sincere effort to place this application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 102(b) & 103(a)

Claims 1, 13, 16, 20, 24, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,887,138 (Hagersten). Claims 2, 3, 14, 15, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,887,138 (Hagersten) in further view of USPN 6,141,734 (Razdan). These rejections are moot in view of the amendments to the independent claims.

Claim 1

Independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the recitations of allowed dependent claim 17. Thus, claim 1 should not be allowed.

Claim 13

Independent claim 13 is amended to incorporate the recitations of allowed dependent claim 17. Thus, claim 13 should not be allowed.

Claim 21

Claim 21 was objected to but would be allowed if placed in independent form including recitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 21 is amended to include the recitations of dependent claim 20 and independent claim 13. Thus, claim 21 should now be allowed.

Claim 24

Independent claim 24 is amended to incorporate the recitations of allowed dependent claim 27. Thus, claim 24 should not be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. 832-236-5529. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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